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Greene

Privilege

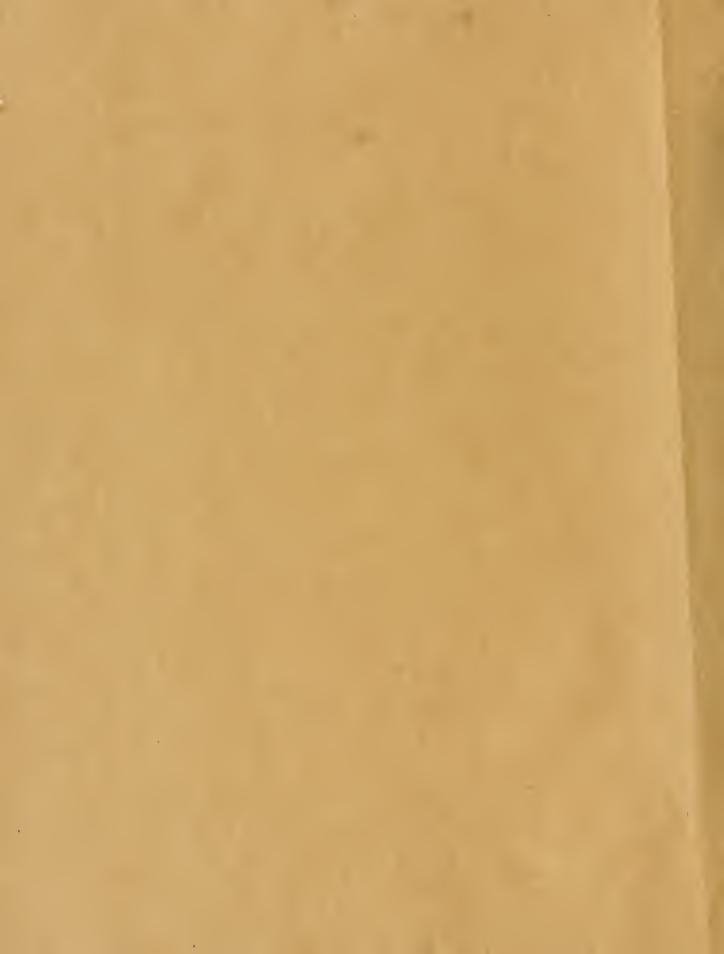
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PRIVILE GE.

A

POEM.

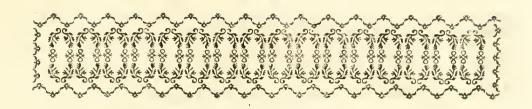
-- CUM PRIVILEGIO!

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*PR 3505 G832pr



PRIVILEGE.

*E flutt'ring BARDS, whose coxcomb fancies choose

A fummer's airing with your lady-muse; Who form starch sonnets regularly prim,

Or bluster sustian Odes in numbers trim;
Odes, which the frenzy of our Browns inspire
To quench in empty smoke the Grecian fire,
Or fritter, with Description's eunuch-rage,
The manly servors of the Roman page;

Who

Who a dull Monody's dull periods drawl,

Strangers, like Lyttleton, to nature's call,

Whine o'er departed worth with childish zeal,

And paint those passions, which you ne'er cou'd feel;

Who dancing to an Ecloque's flow'ry strain

Descant the rustic's bliss, the rustic's pain,

And polishing to courts a fordid crew,

Bid them converse in notes, they never knew:

Ye riming hirelings, who at levees wait,
Foul faction's trumpets, and the tools of state;
Whose magic pow'r bids honesty resort
From loyal Scotland to be lov'd at court,
Who triumph in your country's foul disgrace,
And wooe a Jacobite — when once in place:

Ye tribe enflav'd to metaphyfic plan, Who things of little use with labor scan, In ignorance plung'd, who ignorance deride, And frown on vanity, tho' wrap'd in pride;

Renown'd

Renown'd Philosophers, whose ceaseless toil Consumes the ling'ring day, and midnight oil, Whether with vagrant Hume your motley page Deals wanton paradox in headlong rage; Who, what he thinks, with confidence can bawl Freely, as that, he never thought at all; With letter'd pride whose moral footsteps tend, Lost in a cloud, and talking to no end, His fole intention thro' the mazy way, Not to fet right, but lead the mind aftray; While heav'n-born Genius, in true radiance bright Which breaks at intervals th' encumbring night, Entranc'd by whimfy's wand fupinely lies, And wisdom's charms are lost in fancy's guise; Or with rich Shaftesbury's more fantastic pow'rs You grace fair learning with poetic flow'rs, Careless of judgment's nod, whose lavish strain Spreads uncontrol'd o'er WIT's unbounded plain; By turns the foe of truth, by turns her friend, Who laughs off whims he cares not to defend;

Who

PRIVILEGE.

While boldly springing with enthusiast mind
He leaves the lagging argument behind;
—The errors of whose heart our grief inspire,
Whose head ev'n dullness cannot but admire:

Ye gloomy race, ye mathematic train,
In fogs whose deep impenetrable brain
Plods, and plods on, while strangers to the right,
Involv'd ye wander 'mid the shades of night;
Coop'd in a narrow academic cell,
Where dullness rules, and horror loves to dwell,
Life's choicest hours in zeal inglorious waste,
And leap in search of truth the bounds of taste:
That sacred truth your labors rarely find
(Whate'er the boast of a pedantic mind)
Tho' wisdom beaming thro' a Newton's soul
Points the rough path, and beckons to the goal:

Ye frolic Sternes, with nature's genuine ease, Who laugh and laugh, and write whate'er you please,

Who

Who wage with folemn form eternal war,
Wit's bawdry meaning glimm'ring thro' a star;
Or ye, dispensing with luxuriant mind
Mirth's lively thought with shallow nonsense join'd,
(While warm as Mountague's your passions swell)
Who, what offends decorum, boldly tell;
In giddy mood put modesty to rout,
Feel, what you think, and speak it plainly out:

Ye creatures, fraught with vanity who write,
Retaling ribaldry in truth's despight,
With ranc'rous gall who scandal's poison spit,
While fond presumption claims the throne of wit;
Who now the toil of Dissertation try,
And rake the Grecian for th' historic lye,
Things, they ne'er meant, from soreign authors quote,
And give them nonsense, which they never wrote;
Your slimily strains who slimsily defend,
Strains, which no mortals but yourselves commend,
Superior rivals view with envious eyes,
And merit blast, wherever merit lyes;

Who without learning years of reading wafte,
No fons of genius, and no friends of tafte;
Who rail at vice, tho' foes to virtue's name,
And modesty applaud, unknown to shame,
Ye shallow coxcombs of the times, ye Browns;
Whom reason cheers not, on whom wisdom frowns,
Whom folly actuates, and whom passion rules,
No fancy fires you, and no judgment cools;
No transient beauty who in others own,
And boast perfection in yourselves alone:

Ye learned Kings, ye Warburtons, who fit
Usurping Cromwells o'er the land of wit,
A Right divine in letters who affect,
And your vain upstart wills to laws erect;
Fondly exclaiming with imperious tongue
Each wretch, that dares to differ, must be wrong;
Who build on novelty your worth's defence,
On pride your spirit, on abuse your sense;
Whose volumes drawl'd on fair religion shew,
What Christians need not, or ne'er ought to know;

Who

Who to meer nothings fink a Shakespear's rage, Burlesque his meaning, and pervert his page; Comment on bards, tho' strangers to the Nine, Plain sense obscuring with the *critic* line:

Come forth, ye authors of whate'er degree, Ye willing flaves, and you who dare be free, Creeping in profe, or ambling it in rime, To gain the pence, or while away your time, All, all come forth; the gen'rous muse attend, To Worth devoted, and her country's friend; A mighty theme I sing, attend my call, And feel the subject, which demands you all.

But chiefly ye, whose learning's sob'rer rage Points the full beauties of th' historic page, Not rous'd by Smollet's pride, with partial views, Dealing each faithless ancedote from news, Changing, like vanes, before the changing wind, Where saction bids, who sly with giddy mind,

'Gainst

'Gainst honest Pitt's unfully'd virtues roar, That Pitt your int'rest deem'd a God before, Who madly vaunting in the Tory's name, Throw vilain flanders on a William's fame, William, whose worth shall triumph, when the Scot, Of ALL difdain'd, shall in oblivion rot, Howe'er the wretches labor to furvive, Prop'd on the rebel-deeds of forty-five; But YE, inspir'd by truth's severer laws, Who rush undaunted in your country's cause, MACAULAYS firm, who foar on Freedom's wings, No dupes to statesmen, and no slaves to Kings, Who frown on Stuarts with a gen'rous zeal, Each thought directed to the public weal; Distinguish'd patriots! in whose strains we find The purest language of a manly mind; --- Attend the muse, which fearless of control, Speaks the strong dictates of an English foul, On vile corruption swells th' indignant stream, FREEDOM her boaft, and PRIVILEGE her theme.

Hail glorious Privilege, whose facred name Fills my warm spirits with a genuine flame, Calls forth each great refolve, inspires my pride, And thro' my veins expands a purer tide; Hail, holy CHARTER hail, whose gen'rous smile Sheds richest transports o'er my native isle; By thee her subjects, first of human race, Panting for fame, impatient of difgrace, Oppression blast with unrelenting heart, And frown abhorrent on the snares of art; By thee, a foe to guilt, unknown to fear He curbs the statesman in his wild career, Bids upstart vice superior virtue own, Nor spares the fiend, tho' basking near a throne; By thee, while gen'rous ardor fires his cheek, All that he dares to think, he dares to speak; Maintains his country's rights with honest plea, Nor deigns to fink a flave, by nature free. Hail holy charter, at whose awful nod The paths of death our gallant fathers trod,

C

The rig'rous arm of lawless pow'r withstood, When proudly warring 'gainst the public good, Confronted tyrants with a steady eye, -For Freedom liv'd, for Freedom dar'd to dye. Thrice happy England, doom'd no more to view The foul oppressions of a venal crew! Doom'd, unreveng'd, no longer to behold At will thy facred int'rests bought and fold; See in some wretch's hand the sceptre plac'd, Usurp'd this moment, and the next difgrac'd; See a vile HENRY's foul with stern delight Bent on extortion leap the bounds of right; Too weak to rule, too proud to bless a state, His foes derifion and his fubjects' hate, The tool of av'rice, and a dupe to art, No honest dictates warm'd his iron-heart, Steel'd to all friendship, but what int'rest gave, Who loath'd th' ambitious, tho' ambition's flave; Gull'd with the founds of arbitrary pow'r, Hug'd, whom he curs'd, and smil'd but to devour; So frown'd the wretch, whom heav'n's avenging hand Ordain'd the peft, to fcourge an helpless land, Unmov'd he listen'd to the nation's groan, While his rapacious minions rul'd the throne.

Condemn'd no more to view the tyrant God, Who rul'd the subject with oppression's rod; Ungovern'd favage! in whose foul was join'd Each vice, whose horrors can disgrace mankind, Vices, whose thick impenetrable screen Scarce left one glimpse of virtue to be seen, Or if some transient goodness lurk'd within It frown'd polluted by a deeper fin; Passion his rule, profusion his delight, His strength, brutality, revenge, his might; No tears could footh him, and no worth cou'd awe, Right he disdain'd, and what he will'd, was law; Pride festér'd in his foul, his specious sense Shone thro' the glare of boundless insolence; A friend unknown to faith; a foe to grace His fierce religion wore a bigot-face;

The

The realm he rescu'd from the papal throne,

A freedom sounded on caprice alone;

Of hand rapacious, and of heart unjust,

Madman in rage, and pander to his lust;

Woman he lov'd, but soon his passion cloy'd,

Scorn'd, tho' admir'd, and hated, when enjoy'd;

With truth his learning one pedantic strife;

One settled war with virtue was his life.

So low'r'd the guilty times; so lost to shame, When dawning Freedom shed a dubious slame; When venal statesmen, setter'd to resort, Humor'd each sickle sancy of a court; One tyrant dead, when with unbounded hand Another tyrant rules the wretched land; Such, while Eliza's arm the sceptre sway'd Each wayward passion of their Queen obey'd; Fawn'd at her feet, and truckled to her nod, And rais'd an earthly puppet to a God; Lords in sull senate sull applauses show'r, And lavish incense at the shrine of pow'r,

With liberal foul th' indulgent Commons grant
Repeated treasures to their Sov'reign's want;
Schemes prosper'd then by able statesmen plan'd,
And conquests rose beneath the warrior's hand;
O'er earth, o'er ocean, tow'r the martial train,
And grace the sacred annals of her reign;
Sprung from this source, the Sov'reign's merits shone,
Usurping Wisdom to herself alone;
Hence ev'ry virtue in her bosom rul'd,
Enslam'd with courage, and with prudence cool'd;
Her's the full triumph of eternal same,
Which long-forgotten patriots vainly claim.

To those, ambition prompted to be great,

FLATT'RY, RANK FLATT'RY won the smile of state;

Who seek th' indulgence of their Queen to prove,

Her mind must rev'rence, and her form must love;

By wisdom sir'd, like Sheba's Queen, her mind

In form an angel sent to bless mankind,

—Each charm, which niggard nature dar'd deny,

Their praise must kindle, and their tongues supply.

PRIVILE GE.

---Veil, rigid satire, veil th' inglorious scene, And in oblivion close the Scottish Queen.

To draw the tear from Pity's melting eye,
Call from the heaving breaft the pensive figh,
To swell th' ingenuous bosom with distain,
And rouse the fervor of the patriot train,
To urge the warrior's animated force,
Inspire his vengeance, and enslame his course,
Hate in his soul, and horror in his face,
Turn to the elder of the Stuart race;
Turn to the baleful melancholy hour,
When James was listed to the seat of pow'r,
Who hurl'd oppression with imperious hand,
To stab the Freedom of a zealous land;
Freedom the courtier's curse, the tyrant's scorn,
Her glories blasted, and her trophies torn.

Tho' foibles center'd in a wayward heart
Might ward the fury of refentment's dart,
When leagu'd with crimes the tainted mind they rule,
We loath the vilain, while we mourn the fool;

If gleam'd in Scottish James a transient worth, From vice, vice only sprang its guilty birth; If gen'rous dictates in his bosom roll'd, Profusion show'r'd the prostituted gold; Peace, peace he courted, for unknown to arms His puny spirit shudder'd at alarms; Fair learning's themes his pedant toils pursue, To snuff th' applauses of a venal crew; While fordid incense dullness' train imparts, He stands the ruling Solomon of arts. Did friendship's sweets his giddy thoughts employ? They glar'd with guilt, or dwindled to a toy: Thus England's chains he forg'd, himself a tool To the mad whimsies of a fav'rite fool.

Flush'd with the warmth, which youth, and spirits gave, To him, his father who disgrac'd, a slave, Charles mounts the tott'ring pinacle of pow'r, --- A wretch devoted from that gloomy hour.

Oh! with indulgent hand had fav'ring fate

Consign'd the Monarch a DOMESTIC state;

Freed

Freed from ambition, and the broils of strife, What joys had crown'd him in the vale of life! Pure had each ray of social merit shone, Obscur'd by clouds, that hover round a throne.

Tyrant at others' will, by nature meek,
Of folid fense, from shallow councils weak,
Of bosom gen'rous, and a foe to fin,
Virtue, tho' mark'd with errors, glow'd within;
Tho' Stuart born, with social goodness grac'd,
Firm was his friendship, his affection chaste.

To stem the boundless torrent of the times,
When pure religion was a mask for crimes,
When urg'd 'gainst Freedom's rights, by Freedom's stame,
Pow'r was their butt, and monarchy their aim,
Ill suits the mildness of a Charles's force,
Tho' headlong Buckingham enslame his course:
---I cannot love on truth's severer plan
The hapless King, I cannot hate the man.

Close, close the horrors of the rest from fight, And crush a Cromwell to eternal night.

In frolic gayety from Breda's shore, Eafy, as Fortune's frown he never bore, As exile were a toy, and want a jest, To realms long panting for the sweets of rest The fon invited flew; the changing realm Caught at a stroke the vices of the helm; In pleasure's round the giddy subjects rove, A land of licence, ridicule, and love; A dupe to folly, and to whims a flave, Calm he receiv'd the joke, he freely gave, Without profusion in his focial hour, Stranger to prudence 'mid the scenes of pow'r; His fcoff religion, glory was his hate, Careless of right, and thoughtless of the state; Foes were regarded, but his friends unknown, Those very friends, who rais'd him to the throne; Averse to tumults, undisturb'd by wars, He shook the kingdom with domestic jars;

At home unrev'renc'd, and despis'd abroad, His people spurn'd him, and his neighbors aw'd; Disgrace, when living, crush'd his country's same, Which sinks his ashes to the gulph of shame.

Curs'd with a boundless arbitrary rage,
Which fires the STUART foul from age to age,
Steel'd to fair prudence, by no fears appall'd,
Impatient rushing, where oppression call'd,
Relentless bigot to the Popish cause,
Who laugh'd at Freedom, and disdain'd the laws;
Who moulded fetters for a restiff state,
To make them captives to the *wretch, they hate,
And urg'd by principle, with pious art,
Would tear all conscience from the human heart,
As subject, not as sovereign born to shine,
Rose the last tyrant of the Stuart-line:
Obscur'd by tempests rose the feeble sun,
In clouds to set, 'ere half his course was run.

^{*} The Pope.

Hence be fuch rulers, let the bigot praise The gloomy records of those guilty days, Let frantic Tories, whose rebellious ire Would spread their native land with flames of fire, On regal vileness venal flatt'ry roll, No spark of Freedom glimm'ring in their soul; ENGLAND with transport feels the facred hour, When fpurning flav'ry, uncontrol'd by pow'r, From the warm heart unbounded rev'rence springs To crown the merits of the best of Kings; Of hoary prudence ev'n in youth posses'd His people bleffing, of his people blefs'd; Whose foul from virtue never learn'd to rove, Whose ev'ry thought religion's duties move; Rife, rife, my muse, in truth's exalted strain, And hail the glories of a Brunswic's reign.

Tho' favage bosoms with enraptur'd fight

Hang o'er the baleful horrors of the fight,

And stalking thro' the field with giant tread

Feast on the slaughter'd mountains of the dead;

Far

Far milder scenes engage our statesmens care, They know to conquer, but they know to spare; They bid destruction drop her vengeful arm, And curb in full career the war's alarm.

Their gen'rous thoughts with calm compassion flow From ruin's jaw their mercy saves a soe;

To raise him from the dust themselves advance,
And hug the promis'd saith of Spain and France.

There are, who slaves to int'rest's fordid plan,
Keep, what they gain, and gain whate'er they can;
Around, our conquests spread from shore to shore,
Peace kindly slies those conquests to restore;
Tho' ev'ry gale repeated triumphs boast,
A shatter'd navy, or a captive coast;
Tho' ev'ry gale unbounded treasures bring,
—The stores predessin'd to the soe we sling;
Tear the vain laurel from the warrior's head,
And six th' immortal olive in its stead.

Of old protected by the fovereign hand,

Spite of the clamors of an adverse land,

The giddy statesman, with enthusiast zeal,

At random rushing 'gainst the public weal,

Each post of honor on his kinsmen show'r'd,

Each splen 'id title on his minions pour'd;

Tho' bellowing faction rail, the courtly race

Still kept their grandeur, and maintain'd their place;

Fix'd at their wills the ministerial rout,

In pow'r who pleas'd them, who displeas'd were out.

The frame of B--E a nobler foul inspires, In place this moment, he the next retires; Retires contented from encumbiring state, I o footh the madness of a nation's hate.

FAV'RITES, in shew abandon'd by a court,
Fix'd to the gilded slav'ry of resort,
Still lurk d or yore, conseal'd behind a screen,
And rul'd cach movement of the state machine;

Our fav'rite wooes the still, sequester'd life, Sicken'd with gain, and surfeited with strife.

Star-Chamber tyranny, by passion mov'd,
Flew forth of old on libels, never prov'd,
Each hated Patriot by illegal pow'r
Causeless was seiz'd, and hurry'd to the Tow'r;
That pow'r, which gave the shatter'd state to groan,
While fell extortion wore the face of loan,
Tax'd it for war, and when the battles cease,
Tax'd it asresh, to carry on a Peace.

Of old, devoted to a statesman's thought,

Gen'rals ne'er dar'd to vote, as conscience taught,

Or if perhaps, disdainful of control,

Some bolder champion spoke his honest soul,

Driv'n from his post, and banish'd from command,

He mourns, oppress'd, the slav'ry of the land;

But Justice, Justice now the courtier guides,

Cools his keen rage, and o'er his heart presides.

The

The Press, where Freedom with undaunted course Checks the wild stream of ministerial force, Where gen'rous Truth can fainting virtue right, And tear corruption to the face of light; By Law protected, and unaw'd by foes, Nor warrants lock, nor Carringtons can close: Free be the passport still, with prudent zeal For ever watchful o'er the public weal, On glory's wing, beyond the reach of blame, Our statesmen soar to everlasting same.

JEFFRIES of yore, oppression's genuine child,
With streams of blood his guilty steps defil'd;
To Pow'r alone, and to her friends, a friend,
No virtues sooth him, and no tears can bend;
Merit in rags sunk blasted at his frown,
Crush'd was each suitor, that confronts the crown;
What need of Juries?—he o'er-rules the cause,
His will the verdict, and his nod, the laws.

Thrice

Thrice happy change !---with spotless truth possess'd When virtue rears her throne in M--sf---D's breast;

A milky breast, that melts at mis'ry's tear,

Ev'n to the rebel-culprit scarce severe;

Untway'd by faction, and unwarp'd by pride,

No int'rest turns his honest heart aside;

Vers'd in the laws, at calm reslection's rule

He weighs the right, deliberately cool.

Fair Freedom's smile his ev'ry deed inspires,
Reigns in his soul, and kindles all her fires;
Ingenuous thoughts his manly mind enlarge,
No Jury's influenc'd by a partial charge;
All that they think, he bids them freely name;
---So open, Wilks, tho' sentenc'd, cannot blame.

Faction, that Hydra, strengthen'd from the ground, Warm'd by resistance, stercer from her wound Who rears her tow'ring front, Now lost to sight Sinks to the regions of eternal night;

EXTRAVAGANCE,

EXTRAVAGANCE, that wont with Kings to sport, Quash'd by a T--B--T's frown retires from court; While mild Oeconomy triumphant stands, The frugal pension gleaming in her hands; Who scatters wealth (where wealth alone is sit) To cheer the toils of learning, and of wit; Adds double genius to an Hogarth's page, And same, acquir'd in youth, confirms in age; Bids Mallet's muse with richest sancy bloom, And swells each grace of tragedy in Hume; Gives Johnson's soul with patriot-zeal to spring, Adore a statesman, and respect his King.

BLASPHEMY, woo'd of late who stalk'd the land,
Lies levell'd in the dust by S--D--CH' hand;
S--d--ch, by all rever'd from earliest youth,
Renown'd for friendship, chastity, and truth;
No mean reslections in his bosom roll,
Vice ne'er posses'd one corner of his soul;

Fill'd

Fill'd with each virtue that a court can grace, Bless'd be my country! he's at length in place; Parts, person, manners, all, his office suit, And crown this precious legacy of Bute.

Unbounded Int'REST, whose prevailing art Expells each ray of goodness from the heart, Foe to all reason, savage Impudence, Who long usurp'd the facred name of Sense, Who steel'd to shame bids modest merit blush, And spreads o'er truth herself a faithless shush; Guilt in broad noon which 'erst securely trod, ---All, all at once are fled at N-RT-N's nod.

If genuine LOYALTY demand thy care,
Turn to a LITCHFIELD's heart, and fee her there;
She bids a Philips tow'r fupremely great,
True to his King, and faithful to the state.
See! facred Wisdom, with a full control,
Spreads her bright radiance on a Dash---D's soul;

Center'd

Center'd in worth, fee! Principle impart

Her purest influence to a Gre---le's heart;

Unsway'd by faction, and a soe to pelf,

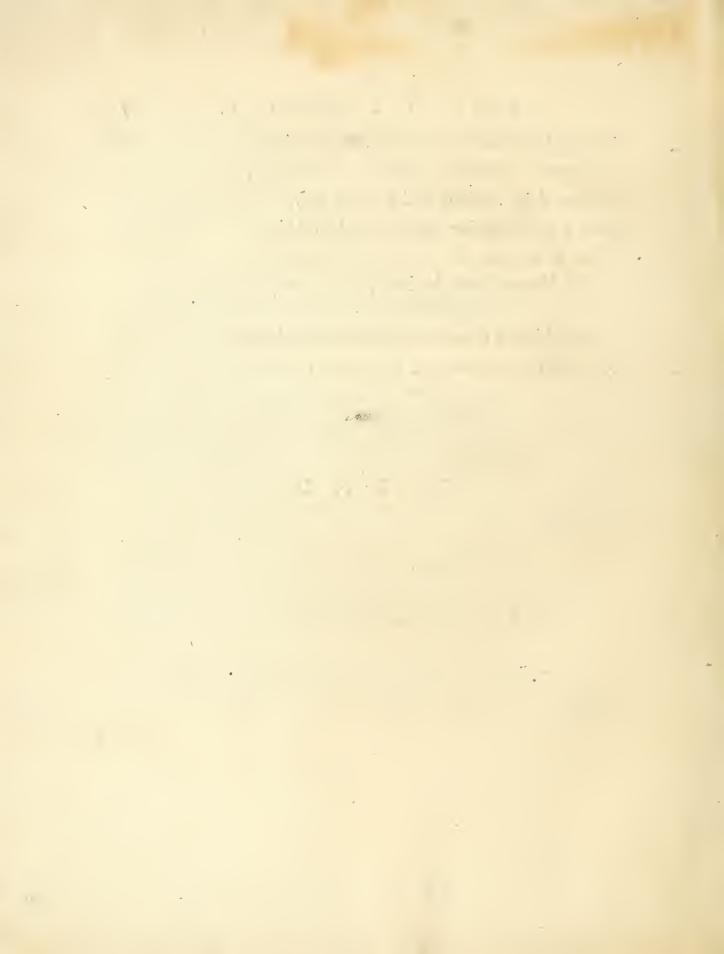
Steel'd to corruption, and no tool to felf,

What if he quits the paths he trod before?

---His kindred Much he loves, his country More.

Such blissful scenes our golden times display, And such the morning of a George's sway.

The E N D.





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